

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 28

Sponsored by Representative RUIZ, Senator MANNING JR; Representatives CHAICHI, FRAGALA, HUDSON, NELSON, NGUYEN H, PHAM H, Senator PATTERSON

Whereas community health workers are frontline public health workers that are trusted members of the community in which they serve; and

Whereas community health workers have a uniquely intimate understanding of the communities they serve, and that understanding enables them to build trusted relationships, serve as liaisons between the community and much needed health and social services, improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery, increase treatment capacity in underserved areas and improve community health knowledge and individual self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, informal counseling, coaching, social support and advocacy; and

Whereas community health workers are recognized with a professional certification in a growing number of states in the United States; and

Whereas community health workers are a historic workforce that goes back hundreds of years in the United States and that reflects the diversity that makes this country great; and

Whereas community health workers have been known by many different titles, including community health representatives, promotoras de salud, aunties, peers and outreach workers; and

Whereas community health workers are a cross-sector workforce that connects community members to health care and other social services, reducing barriers to health and well-being; and

Whereas community health workers are a proven workforce with decades of research documenting effectiveness in maternal and child health, chronic disease interventions, immunization, oral health, HIV, primary care and many other disciplines and a documented return on investment for many programs; and

Whereas sustainable funding of community health workers supports fair market wages and enhanced recruitment and retention of the workforce; and

Whereas community health workers fulfill a wide range of roles, including:

(1) Facilitating cultural mediation among individuals, communities and health and social service systems;

(2) Providing culturally appropriate health education;

(3) Coordinating care, case management and health system navigation;

(4) Advocating for individuals and communities;

(5) Building community capacity;

(6) Providing direct service;

(7) Implementing individual and community assessments; and

(8) Participating in evaluation and research; and

Whereas community health worker networks are statewide, regional or local associations or coalitions with leadership and membership composed of at least 50 percent community health workers, and whose activities include training, workforce development, mentoring and other initiatives to support community health worker programs; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, designate the week of August 17 to 23, 2025, as Community Healthcare Workers Week; and be it further

Resolved, That we recognize the significant contributions of community health workers to improve health outcomes in underserved communities; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage collaboration at the local, state and federal levels to raise awareness of the critical role of community health workers in Oregon and throughout the United States.

Adopted by House March 24, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate April 30, 2025

Rob Wagner, President of Senate